

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00530 231944Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 H-01 L-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 PM-03

FEA-01 INT-05 AGR-05 /095 W
----- 013136

R 231720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5445

INFO USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MINERS STRIKE STEPPED UP

REF: LA PAZ 271

1. MINERS AT CATAVI AND SIGLO XX HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE JANUARY 13 WHEN THE SECURITY FORCES CLOSED 4 RADIO STATIONS IN THE MINING AREAS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY HAVE HAD THE LLALLAGUA AREA SEALED OFF FOR ABOUT A WEEK IN A MOVE DESCRIBED TO THE PRESS BY COL. JUAN FERNANDEZ, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SECOND DIVISION, AS AN ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE MINERS TO RETURN TO WORK BY CUTTING OFF THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES, THE STRIKE HAS CONTINUED UNABATED.

2. ON JANUARY 21, THE GOB SENT A COMMISSION TO SEEK CONTACT AND DIALOGUE WITH THE STRIKING MINERS. THE COMMISSION INCLUDED JAVIER ARCE, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, EVIDENTLY IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW THAT THE
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00530 231944Z

COMMISSION ENJOYED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT,

JORGE ESPANA, THE MINISTRY OF LABOR'S MOST EXPERIENCED MEDIATOR OF LABOR CONFLICTS, AND HUGO REVILLA, COMIBOLS CHIEF OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO START MEANINGFUL TALKS WITH THE MINERS.

3. THE GOB ALSO ASKED THE CHURCH TO NAME A MEDIATOR TO ASSIST IN THE RESOLUTION OF THIS CONFLICT. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE MEETING IN COCHABAMBA (SEE SEPTTEL) CHOSE MONSEÑOR RENE FERNANDEZ, BISHOP OF ORURO, FOR THIS TASK. THE GOB'S DECISION TO ASK FOR CHURCH MEDIATION OF THIS CONFLICT WAS SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE CHURCH WHICH RUNS ONE OF THE RADIOS CLOSED BY THE GOB WAS A PARTY TO THE BASIC CONFLICT WHICH TOUCHED OFF THE STRIKE.

4. THE DESPATCH OF THE COMMISSION AND THE REQUEST FOR CHURCH MEDIATION INDICATE THAT THE GOB HAS CHOSEN THE PATH OF CONCILIATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO GET THE MINERS BACK TO WORK. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THIS PATH HAS MOST LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO STATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL, POLITICAL SITUATION, MINING INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ00530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-0511
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxpt.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LA PAZ 271
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MINERS STRIKE STEPPED UP
TAGS: PINT, EMIN, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006